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### COSEY NOOKS AND CORNERS FOR AUGUST.

BY MRS. OLIVER BELL BUNCE.



IN AUGUST any more the month of pretty nooks and comfortable corners than the rest of the warm days in summer? Hardly so; and yet perhaps the stay-at-home or the woman who returns after a vacation of four weeks in July congratulates herself at least that the best part of the warm weather is over and the nights in their cooler atmosphere have become refreshing. Now, to those people who by business or lack of means cannot indulge themselves in a summer vacation, a way can be provided to alleviate their sufferings if a coolness of furnishings is made apparent and a method devised for

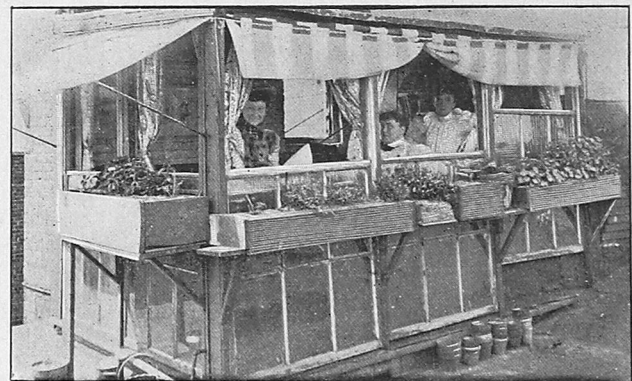
a cool nook even in rooms where the morning sun shines forth in all its refulgent rays until late at noon.

Somewhere in Nantucket, Massachusetts, a man invented a summer bed, part lounge and part hammock, which for every hour of the day served for the occupant an admirable purpose. This affair was made of striped canvas, trimmed gaily in red and blue fringe finely ornamented with deep ruffles and good-sized innumerable pillows. It could be placed at any angle in a room and for an invalid was a desirable need, filling all the requirements of an ordinary bed. Having been adopted by a personal friend, I naturally spent some hours now and then in what she called "her sunny morning nook." It was a big room most sparingly furnished, and devoid of every line in upholstery, decoration and the like. The floor was painted in a sage green, light in color, and here and there a rug of no particular pattern but which gave that bit of color so acceptable to the eye. At the foot of this hammock-bed was a table filled with all the appointments of the day in reading, sewing and the like, and alongside of this manufactured comfort was a Turkish stool of ample size for the ever-useful tea service, and being confined to her room most of the time she was as comfortable as comfortable could be.

Furnishings for all summer rooms should be light in form, simple in character, in excellent patterns, which are neither pronounced nor otherwise. For a wall dressing what is better than a paper in creams on which there is a delicate blue, a slight figure, scroll in effect, or some restful device which is tasteful but not obtrusive? The flower scheme lies in the frieze which is a strong one and ornamental. As for floor coverings, the matting fills every need. Some years ago a sample of matting was made by a wholesale carpet firm which was so thick, so ropy, so durable in style that when laid it proved one of the most artistic affairs ever put on the

market. To make it pay the price was averaged at twenty dollars a roll, but in wear it even surpassed the cocoa matting—that substantial fabric of summer make. Its colors were a rich blue figure on a white background and when laid had all the qualities of the finest carpet, but being of such an enormous price it failed as a staple in trade, and so was abandoned after the two pieces were made. White enameled furniture takes this year precedent in all summer furnishings and is now highly ornamented with wreaths of roses, pretty Dutch landscape, with windmills and the like. Then often a conventional figure is given in gilt, with an addition of delicate tans, which produce a very charming effect. Sash curtains for the warm days may be omitted, but if preferred they should be the most delicate of fish nets, scrim in which there are big dots, or a yard of delicate yellow silk which ornaments only the far end of the windows' woodwork. As for draperies to doors the cretonne is by far the best, and can be taken down, shaken easily, and meet all the requirements, however elegant the furnishings may be. The one thing should be considered, that tints, however beautiful, if strong in character, should for the August days lie fallow, the one object being thought of repose to mind and body, which for the summer is the all-absorbing duty.

Of course there are souls in this big world who know the value of retirement and who after awhile find a place for themselves where the pure air of heaven is felt even at the expense of many steps and hard climbing. These are people who own a roof garden on the top of some high city building, and spend, when at leisure, there many hours. Such a one has been built by Miss Mary Gay Humphreys, the well-known *litterateur*, on the top of one of our big apartment houses. As you ascend the elevator of the Windermere you finally reach the top story, and along the narrow hall you see from one of the smaller places a ladder. A cheery voice cries out, "Come up, my dear, into the sky parlor." Up you go, and find yourself in a small



MISS MARY GAY HUMPHREYS'S COSEY ROOF GARDEN.

square room on the roof where the blue sky and the hostess welcome you right heartily. This affair is built of rough pine and on all four sides are windows in small panes, which naturally give a picturesque effect, each one being beautifully ornamented by a box of growing plants, the geranium being queen of them all. For a floor covering there is a spread of artistic matting and over it a rug in bright colors in red and brown, the pretty windows well equipped in very narrow curtains of Japanese crêpe. On one side of this small space is a good honest lounge well fitted up by a cover in blue, and innumerable pillows that make an excellent resting-place for this high-up den. Near the opening of these

Steep stairs is a table on which is a lamp, some books and the ever-ready tea service. Near this is an arm-chair, and a short distance away a book-case. On the walls are pictures, a bracket or two, and comfort reigns there supreme.

This bright little woman declares that her repose is complete, and that inspiration is given from the blue of the sky; that the street below, with its hurry and skurry, disturbs her not, and that either winter or summer the charm of her eyrie is enhanced by the great snow storms which ascend in flakes, making her study a veritable mountain side, or by the gentle summer rain that refreshes and gives to the atmosphere a sweet and delicious odor, a boon to the city dweller in the summer weather.

Five people out of ten decry the backyard of the city house. It is hot and untenable, but only because it is made so by the occupant. Nowadays this neglected luxury has come to the front and before the outgoing in the summer time and so on in the autumn and until the winter fairly sets in a way has been provided to make it the children's playhouse. In Germany a load of sand is brought in and placed in one corner of the yard, and the children are furnished with pails, shovels, sand-moulds and all the paraphernalia of seashore amusements, so that in the cool of the morning or afternoon the corner is one to be greatly enjoyed. In France if only there is one tree in a garden its shade forms for the family a sitting-out place. Supper is served there and various occupations are carried on in the early or late morning hours.

City piazzas for the most part of them are poorly-equipped places. To make them desirable a corner should be partitioned off and fitted up in room-like effect, with a wicker lounge, two chairs, one small table, and a high screen, with an inside pocket. This space can be covered by a canvas awning which can be adjusted at will. A hammock in gay colors can be hung not far away, with a stoop seat here and there so that the porch becomes the living-room in the waking hours.

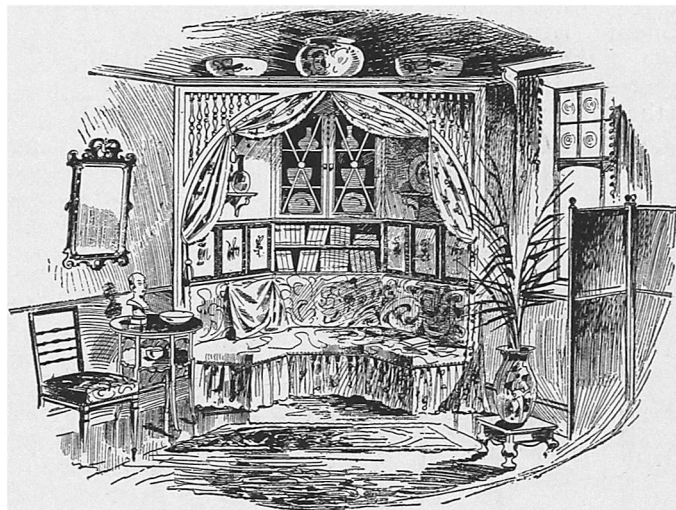
But when a cosey nook or pretty corner in genuine shape is desired then the country is the place where it can be found. Sometimes it is a bay window, often a small room off the library, many times the little verandah which bulges out from the second story, or under a big tree where an out-of-door place is made by its drooping branches.

Many of the artistic country homes nowadays are built to ensure for each room the cosey nook well appointed in all its details. In one house a tea corner is formed by a pretty arrangement of a cretonne lounge with wide cushions and large generous pillows that rest against the wall in a careless way. Another is a collection of fan palms in big yellow china receptacles with space enough for one ample wicker chair and the light softened by an outside awning in broad yellow and white stripes.

In this pretty home there are surprises everywhere. In a small room just off the library is what the mistress of this charming domain calls her sewing corner—one window of splendid width and flanked on each side by smaller ones, which are decorated by pottery vases in whose tints are iridescent colors and filled with the Wandering Jew, a plant that will live anywhere even if only half well treated. When in full bloom it is very attractive, bearing a small pretty blue flower in an orchid shape. In this place there was the table and sewing-chair, an embroidery screen and all the implements for a morning of household work.

Ascending the stairs we are ushered into the guests' room, which is paneled in a French treatment of big squares of roses with their leaves and buds set

in a narrow moulding which serves as a frame for the sage-color paper background. This place is a veritable summer cool effect in white furniture, Swiss dressing-glass, enameled chair and brass bed, in which a valance for the edge is the dainty scheme. Pretty little water colors of country scenes are delightfully framed in a simple white band, touched very gingerly in gilt. On the floor is a cream matting, set off by a fur rug in white tones, and the windows are furnished in a delicately dotted muslin in which there is no color at all. The owner told us that this summer dressing had been given only for the warm days, and had been a success for visitors who felt keenly the heat and its discomforts.



A COMFORTABLE INDOOR COSEY CORNER.

The man's den in this house was a window corner, a cosey spot of which was large enough to admit of a desk, a chair and a small book-case, and this also was charmingly screened by a Venetian blind. But the country house is a large one, and as rooms are plenty, possibilities are great.

Of course the tea house or the chalet outdoors is the very often cosey nook for the August month. These chalets or lean-tos are merely roofs which rest on four stout poles, tilted a good deal in the back, and admit of much decoration. For a person of artistic taste they can be made a bower of beauty by giving the roof a mass of green and twining the poles with running vines and a garniture of big ferns. These affairs can have a canvas curtain on all four sides, which can be adjusted at will to keep out either the sun, heat or rain. In the centre can be placed a rustic table, some chairs of simple make, and as a floor covering there can be a good cocoa matting or perhaps a flooring of fine stones which will be acceptable for the feet. Any of these small nooks will serve as a tea place or booths which will be of use when a fête champêtre is on the carpet. For a country house of large dimensions these lean-tos can number three and serve any purpose for an outdoor social affair.

But after all there are so many materials in the way of piazza decorations, cool effects for all rooms, and stuffs suitable for big country halls, that for the cosey nook inside or out the furnishings can be artistic in every sense of the word so that a woman indeed must be one of very poor taste who fails to understand all the requirements of these delectable spots, and if a tasteful furniture is given, the inexpensive will prove just as useful and as decorative as those of more expensive make.